

## MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Special Meeting

August 19, 1952  
2:30 P.M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

The meeting was called to order with Mayor Drake presiding.

## Roll Call:

Present: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake  
Absent: None

Present also: W. E. Seaholm, City Manager; W. T. Williams, Jr., City Attorney; J. D. Huffman, Jr., Director of Finance.

The Mayor announced this meeting was called to hear the report of MR. CLINTON OWSLEY on his study regarding the Telephone Company's request for a rate increase.

Councilman MacCorkle asked for the opportunity to discuss the report of Mr. Owsley with him in an Executive Session. The Mayor felt the report should not be published, as there would be no action on the Council at this meeting. Councilman Long wanted an open meeting, and refused to sit in on an Executive Session. Councilman Johnson wanted to discuss the rates before notifying the public of the rates which might be set. Councilman White stated it did not make any difference to him, as no commitments would be made.

MR. CLINTON OWSLEY submitted his report and explained in detail how he arrived at his figures, taking in a study of the earnings of Western Electric, and the elements of readiness-to-serve. He explained how he came to a rate base of \$9,124,000 instead of the rate base the Company claimed of \$13,000,000. The Company had asked for seven percent return, but he stated that was high and it was even possible to go below the six percent. He pointed out reasons for that

suggestion. Mr. Owsley gave a detailed report on his study of the whole matter. The Mayor wanted to take the information and have another meeting the following Tuesday and decide what to present at the Thursday meeting, August 28th, and advise the Company that something definite would be given them on the 28th.

Discussion was held on what information was to be released. Councilman Long moved that the figures be made available to the press as presented by Mr. Owsley on the rate schedule. The motion lost for want of a second.

Councilman Long then moved to adjourn. The motion lost by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Long, White

Noes: Councilmen Johnson, MacCorkle, Mayor Drake

Councilman MacCorkle moved that the figures submitted by Mr. Owsley be off record, with the exception of the rate base. The motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, White, MacCorkle, Mayor Drake

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Long (Left the meeting about this time)

Councilman MacCorkle moved that the Council adjourn. The motion, seconded by Councilman Johnson, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Johnson, White, MacCorkle, Mayor Drake

Noes: None

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

*W. S. Drake*  
Mayor

ATTEST:

*E. L. Owsley*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk